Sugar sold under PDS

7173. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHAN-DRA JICHKAR; ., Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what is the precentage of the total quantity of sugar, to be sold through the Public Distribution System to the total quanity of sugar sold in the country;

(b) what were such percentages for the last three years;

(c) whether it i_s a fact that in view of short supply of sugar in PDS, consumers will have to purchase sugar from the open market;

(d) whether this would raise the prices of sugar; and

(e) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) . (a) and (b) Under the present policy of partial control, being followed continuously since 17.12.79, a specified percentage of the total production of each sugar factory is procured as levy sugar at notified ex-factory prices for distribution through the Public Distribution System at a uniform retail issue price throughout the' country. The ratio of levy to free sale sugar during the last three years is given as under:—

Sugar season	Ratio of levy: Free sale
1991-92 . . .	45.55
1992-93 . . .	40.60
1993-94 . . .	40.60

(c) to (e) Under the present policy of partial control, the monthly allo cations of levy sugar to most of the States | Union Territories are . being made on uniform norms of ensuring 425 gms. per capita availability for the projected population as on 1.10.1986. These norms are effective from 1-2-1987. However, some States|Union Territories are being al lowed allocations at higher scales in view of the special circumstances prevailing there. Accordingly, about 3.35 lakh tonnes of sugar is being allocated as levy for distribution under the Public Distribution System for the entire country. In addition to the above Government releases about one lakh tonnes per annum as festival quota which is allocated to the States|Union Territories in proportion to their monthly levy allocations.

Moreover, supplies through PDS of all commodities including sugar, are supplemental in nature and are not intended to meet the total requirements of the consumers.

The prices of open market sugar depend on various factors like demand and supply at a particular time and particular place. The wholesale price index (W.P.I.) of sugar since January, 1994 i_s given as under: —

Month	Wholesale Price Index (WPI) of sugar (Base 1981=100)
January, 1994	214.9
February, 1994	226.3
March, 1994	227.7
April, 1994	229.4*

*(average of 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd April, 1994). :